

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
July 20, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Maxine Russell

Absent

Vito Cannella

Others Present

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive
Office, Board of Supervisors

Khanh Nguyen, Deputy Executive
Officer, Board of Supervisors
Executive Office
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff
Detta Roberts, Commander,
Sheriff's Department
Dave Gutierrez, Sergeant,
Sheriff's Department
Benson Li, Sheriff's Department Food
Services Unit
Randall Olson, Sheriff's Department
Food Services Unit
Elizabeth Howard, DCFS
Cheryl Epps, DCFS
Bill Weinhardt, Probation Department
Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2005

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bacio and unanimously carried, the minutes of July 13, 2005 were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF DCFS CHANGES TO MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2005

On motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Russell and unanimously carried, the changes to the minutes of June 15, 2005, as requested by DCFS were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported that Thomas Saenz has resigned from the Commission on Human Relations.

Chair Montano thanked Commissioner Russell for furnishing the delicious muffins.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$962.02.

STAFF REPORT

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- Corrective Action Response forms were distributed to Commissioners;
- Antibacterial wipes were distributed for Commissioners' use during inspections; and
- William Sias, County Counsel, advised that Commissioners were considered County employees while conducting commission business and would be covered by the County's insurance. Mr. Sias will research the extent and type of coverage afforded and report back.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS

Sheriff's Department: Commander Detta Roberts introduced Lieutenant Randall Olson, Food Services Unit, who gave a brief overview of station feeding services:

- The Food Services Unit currently has 250 employees
- There are 6 working kitchens that serve 75,000 meals a day to the inmates, trustees, etc. which includes a cold breakfast and lunch and a hot dinner;
- Because of a new Cambro packing system, the dinner meals can be prepared and served in a more timely manner;
- Beginning August 1st at the Lancaster station a cook and cool system which will significantly improve the “shelf life” of meals. This method is much more efficient because the Sheriff’s facilities are spread over such a large area; and
- The new cook and serve system will allow for pre-portioned meals and will eliminate the need for outside contracting of meals at some locations and will save the department an estimated \$20,000 a month.

Lieutenant Olson introduced Benson Li, Manager, Food Services Unit, who brings an extensive background in food handling and has worked for the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department and hospitals and is certified by the County Health Department as an instructor for food handling and safety. Lieutenant Olson noted that in less than a year, Mr. Li has brought the Sheriff’s Food Services Unit up to industry standards. Mr. Li noted that when CRDF is opened, it will house female inmates and an ROP baking instruction training program will be developed for the inmates who wish to participate.

Commander Roberts noted that the opening date for CRDF has been moved to January 2006; the Commissioners asked Commander Roberts to arrange for the Commissioners to tour the facility shortly before it is opened. Commander Roberts advised that the Department has discussed with the County Department Mental Health the possibility of converting the Sybil Brand facility into a mental health recovery center for female inmates.

In response to the Commission’s inquiry, Sergeant Dave Gutierrez advised that a study of the temperature at jails and holding facilities determined that the temperature at these facilities is maintained at 72 degrees.

Probation Department: William Weinhart advised that he was sitting in for Kathy New, who has been ill. He briefly commented that there are two

camps being targeted for the Barber Program and that the Department is currently looking for funding and instructors.

Auditor-Controller's Office: Candace Rhue advised that she has replace Doris Reed and will be the contact for the Commission. She advised that the Department would like the Commission to inspect two homes that have failed to submit an acceptable Corrective Action Plan.

Mental Health: To date, this department has not sent a representative.

Commissioners thanked the various department representatives for their invaluable participation and their knowledgeable responses. Commissioners complemented everyone on their dedication and willingness to assist the Commission.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Compton Sheriff's Station

Commissioners Hammargren and Bacio visited this facility on July 14th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this station no longer books or houses inmates or trustees at this facility; this facility has undergone extensive remodeling to accommodate Sheriff's staff and operations.

Hollywood Superior Court

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on July 17th and was advised that this facility is no longer utilized as a lock-up and has been converted to a full community services Sheriff's station.

Way In Youth Shelter/Salvation Army - #111-1

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on July 14th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Vice Chair Stathatos noted that this is a short term shelter facility for boys and that they have implemented weekly creative writing/sharing program which is very successful to clients.

L.A. Youth Network/Taft House - #61-2

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on July 18th and gave a rating of **Needs Improvement**. Areas of concern: the kitchen and food storage areas need a thorough cleaning, i.e. new shelf papers, painting; grounds

need cutting, watering and replanting, etc. A follow-up inspection will be conducted within six weeks.

L.A. Youth Network/Beachwood House - #61-3

Vice Chair Stathatos visited this facility on July 18th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Mental Health Department 95

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on July 18th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners noted that this facility was very clean and that major improvements have been made overall.

Malibu Court

Commissioner Russell visited this facility on July 18th and was advised that the lock-up in this facility was closed on June 2004.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano assigned inspection duties to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates

Commission Staff